

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01281 112319Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 /083 W

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R 112240Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3186

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S VISIT TO COSTA RICA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALLON'S FIVE-DAY VISIT TO COSTA RICA WENT WELL. TRADITIONAL BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP WAS STRENGTHENED AND WARM WORDS WERE EXCHANGED. ALLON EMPHASIZED CUBAN INTERVENTION IN MIDDLE EAST TO COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT ANGOLA. HE PRAISED U.S. AND SECRETARY'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE-DAY VISIT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED IN COSTA RICA. IN ADDITION TO VISITING, ALLON CAME TO SAN JOSE TO MEET WITH ISRAELI CHIEFS OF MISSION IN LATIN AMERICA. ALLON WAS GIVEN VIP TREATMENT, INCLUDING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER, A CALL ON EX-PRESIDENT FIGUERES, AMPLE EXPOSURE TO CABINET MINISTERS AT A MORNING WORK SESSION ON ECONOMIC MATTERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, A SUNDAY FORAY INTO COUNTRYSIDE TO INSPECT SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL CO-OPS AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, AND A SPEECH AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. COSTA RICAN MEDIA AND OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN WARM IN THEIR PRAISE AND IN GENERAL FORTHCOMING IN THEIR  
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01281 112319Z

IDENTIFICATION WITH ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST

STRUGGLE. ONE MINOR EXCEPTION WAS THE CRITICISM OF A COMMUNIST DEPUTY WHO PROTESTED TO ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALFONUH CARRO ALLON'S STRONG CRITICISM OF ANTI-ISRAEL MEASURES IN THE UN (SEE BELOW). CARRO REPORTEDLY RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT AGREE WITH ALL OF ALLON'S REMARKS HE COULD NOT CONTROL WHAT THE VISITOR WAS GOING TO SAY.

3. IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH GOCR OFFICIALS ALLON STRESSED THE THEMES OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, THE PRESENCE AT ONE TIME OF CUBAN FORCES ALONG THE GOLAN HEIGHTS (HE WAS FILLED IN BY COSTA RICANS ON THEIR CONCERN OVER CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA), AND, AT THE BEHEST OF HIS HOSTS, MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SCENE. IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS HE EMPHASIZED THE DWINDLING NUMBER OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES IN THE WORLD TODAY, ISRAELI MIDDLE EAST PEACE OBJECTIVES, AND ANTI-ISRAEL MEASURES IN THE UN. ALLON STRONGLY SCORED THE 1975 ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA; HE TOLD THE COSTA RICAN ASSEMBLY THAT THE UNGA HAD "COVERED ITSELF WITH SHAME" WHEN IT PASSED "THAT REPUGNANT RESOLUTION".

4. DURING MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE ALLON PRAISED ROLE OF U.S. AND SECRETARY IN MIDDLE EAST, AND DENIED THAT ISRAEL IS TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE USG AND THE U.S. PUBLIC AWAY FROM BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS. "THE U.S. IS SUFFICIENTLY POWERFUL TO MAINTAIN ITS TIES WITH ISRAEL AND TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS, AND NOT NECESSARILY TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE FORMER", HE IS QUOTED. AT THE END OF HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST, ALLON NOTED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL IS IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL IS ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF, THAT IT HAS NO FOREIGN TROOPS NOR EXPERTS, THAT ITS SYSTEM IS STRONG, AND THAT ISRAEL IS IN A POSITION TO TAKE ISSUE WITH ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

5. SOME GOCR OFFICIALS HOPED TO GET A FIRM ISRAELI COMMITMENT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN COOPERATIVES AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 01281 112319Z

SMALL RURAL INDUSTRIES. (THE TRIP TO THE COUNTRY WAS ORCHESTRATED BY MINISTER OF LABOR MORALES, LONG AN ADMIRER OF THE ISRAELI KUBUTZ SYSTEM, FOR THAT PURPOSE). ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA, THE ISRAELIS WILL GIVE SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COSTA RICA'S MILLING INDUSTRY, AND WILL INITIATE PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY (IN AGRICULTURE) AND AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE. PRIVATELY, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TELLS US THAT GENERAL ASSURANCES

WERE GIVEN THAT ISRAEL WILL DO MORE IN ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS.  
TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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